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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/723,824	11/26/2003	James P. Griesmer	MSFT-2789/303543.1	9275

41505 7590 08/19/2009

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EXAMINER	
NUNEZ, JORDANY	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2175	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
08/19/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/723,824	GRIESMER, JAMES P.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jordany Núñez	2175	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *26 May 2009*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *8,10-15,17,18 and 21-30* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *8,10-15,17,18 and 21-30* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 05/26/2009 has been entered.

Claim Objections

Claim 26 is objected to because of the following informalities: the quotes in the limitations "change to a binary display" operation, or d) a "change to a decimal display" should be deleted. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 8, 10, 13-15, 18, 21-24, 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Thames et al. (US20030163801, hereinafter Thames).

Re claim 8, Thames discloses a method of displaying related data sub-items corresponding to an object displayed on a computer screen, the method comprising:

determining that a cursor is positioned to point at the object on the computer screen, wherein the object represents a variable incorporated into a line of program code that is currently displayed on the computer screen (e.g., the symbol mac is mousedover) (page 43, paragraph [0668]);

evaluating the object to determine if the object: has a variable value (e.g., determining what kind of expansion data to use for a symbol); and has related data sub-items (e.g., has related macros); assembling variable values for the object and the related data sub-items (e.g., assembling expansion data for each nested macro); and displaying on the computer screen the values of the object in a parent data tip window (fig. 41D, el. 4130) along with an expansion widget indicator (fig. 41D, el. 4133, 4134) of the related data sub- items (page 43, paragraphs [0669], [0670]),

the expansion widget indicator operable to launch a child data tip window for displaying the related data sub-items together with associated data values for each individual data sub-item (fig. 41D, el. 4140; page 43, paragraphs [0669], [0670]),,

the parent and child data tip windows displayed simultaneously and overlaying at least a portion of the listing of the program code (fig. 41D, windows 4130 and 4140 overlay program code).

Re claim 10, Thames et al. discloses a method, wherein displaying the values of the object further comprises displaying in the parent data tip window, a variable data value that is associated with the object (see figure 41D, el. 4130).

Re claim 13, Thames et al. discloses a system for displaying data tips related to an object displayed on a computer screen, the system comprising:

a computer screen to display the object and the data tips (see figure 41D, el. 4131, for example);

a processor (inherent) for executing instructions corresponding to the method of:

determining that a cursor is positioned to point (e.g., mouseover), wherein the object represents a variable (e.g., symbol mac) incorporated into a line of program code (see page 43, paragraph [0669] for example);

loading and evaluating the object to determine if the object:

has a variable value associated with the variable (e.g., tooltip data) (see page 43, paragraph [0669] for example);

has related data sub-items (e.g., macro can be fully expanded to show all the nested macro definitions, or it can expanded by stages) (see page 43, paragraph [0670], [0671] for example) (e.g., this means that the system determines whether a macro has related nested macros, and those that would be fully expanded); and

if the related data sub-items are capable of expansion into lower-tier sub-items;

assembling variable values for the object and the related data sub-items (see page 43, paragraph [0670], [0671] for example); and

displaying the variable values of the object in a parent data tip window located adjacent to the object (see page 43, paragraph [0669], [0670], [0671] for example) (e.g., displaying the expanded macros next to the symbol mac);

displaying the related data sub-items in a child data tip window, wherein the object and the related data sub-items are related in a parent and child relationship (fig. 41D, el. 4140),

the child data tip window having an expansion widget indication of the lower-tier sub items if the lower-tier sub-items exist, determining that the cursor has been position upon the expansion widget indication (fig. 41D, el. 4133, 4134);

displaying an additional data tip window simultaneously with the parent and child data tip windows(page 42, paragraphs [0654], [0655]) (e.g., footnote annotations display footnote text whenever a mouseover occurred over punctuation symbols) ;

and wherein the first window and overlaying at least a portion of the listing of the program code (fig. 41D, el. 4140).

Re claim 14, Thames et al. discloses a system, wherein evaluating the object further comprises evaluating an expression associated with the object (see figure 3c for example) items (e.g., macro can be fully expanded to show all the nested macro definitions, or it can expanded by stages) (see page 43,

paragraph [0670], [0671] for example) (e.g., this means that the system determines whether a macro has related nested macros, and those would be fully expanded);.

Re claim 15, Thames et al. discloses a system, wherein displaying the values of the object further comprises displaying a variable associated with the object and values of the variables respectively items (e.g., macro can be fully expanded to show all the nested macro definitions, or it can expanded by stages) (see page 43, paragraph [0670], [0671] for example) (e.g., this means that the system determines whether a macro has related nested macros, and those would be fully expanded);.

Re claim 18, Thames et al. discloses a machine-readable storage medium having instructions therein, executable by a machine to perform a method comprising:

determining that a cursor is positioned to point at the object, wherein the object represents a variable incorporated into a line of program code that is currently displayed on the computer screen (e.g., mouseover of the symbol referencing a path provides a tooltip with information) (page 43, paragraph [0668]);

loading the cursor-selected object (fig. 41D, el. 4131, the symbol “mac” is loaded before being displayed);

evaluating the object to determine if the object: has a variable value associated with the variable; has related data sub-items; and if the related data sub-items are capable of expansion into lower-tier sub-items; assembling variable values for the object and the related data sub-items, wherein the selected object and the related data sub-items are related in a parent (fig. 41D, el. 4130) and child (fig. 41D, el. 4140) relationship (page 43, paragraphs [0669], [0670]); and

displaying on the computer screen the variable values of the object in a parent data tip window along with an expansion widget indicator (fig. 41D, 4133, 4134) of the related data sub-items, the display also including the lower-tier sub-items in a child data tip window (fig. 41D, 4140), that is launched upon activation of the expansion widget indicator (page 43, paragraphs [0669], [0670]),

the parent and child data tip windows displayed simultaneously and overlaying at least a portion of the listing of the program code (fig. 41D, windows 4130 and 4140 overlay program code).

As to claim 21, Thames shows:

A computer-implemented method for indicating on a computer display, the values of variables in a software program, the computer-implemented method comprising:

displaying on the computer display, an expression that is a part of the software program, the expression containing a variable; detecting the positioning of a pointer upon the variable (e.g., the symbol mac is mousedover) (page 43, paragraph [0668]);

displaying thereon, a first data tip window showing a first expanded version of the variable, the first expanded version showing at least one individual data element that defines the variable, together with a data value for the at least one individual data element (fig. 41D, el. 4130);

detecting the positioning of the pointer upon an expansion widget (fig. 41D, el. 4133, 4134) contained in the first data tip window (page 43, paragraph [0669], [0670]); and

displaying thereon, a child data tip window showing a second expansion version of the variable (Fig. 41D, el. 4140), the second expanded version showing the at least one individual data element together with additional individual data elements that define the variable, the second expansion version further showing corresponding data values for each of the additional individual elements (page 43, paragraph [0669], [0670]).

As to claim 22, Thames shows:

The method of claim 21, wherein the corresponding data values are editable data values (page 17, paragraph [0315]).

As to claim 23, Thames shows:

The method of claim 22, further comprising:

detecting the positioning of the pointer upon a first individual element inside the child data tip window (e.g., extended click); and

displaying thereon, an editing menu (e.g., entry-edit form) showing a list of editing operations that can be performed upon the first individual element contained in the child data tip window (page 46, paragraph [0720]).

As to claim 24, Thames shows:

The method of claim 23, wherein the list of editing operations comprises editing an editable data value corresponding to the first individual element contained in the child data tip window (page 46, paragraph [0720]-[0721]).

As to claim 29, Thames shows:

The method of claim 21, wherein the first variable is a pre-existing element of the expression prior to the displaying of the expression on the computer (e.g., symbol mac is a pre-existing element of the line of programming code where it is displayed) (page 43, paragraph [0668])).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 11, 12, 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thames et al. in in view of Microsoft Tiptoe Through (applicant provided NPL document, Microsoft, Tiptoe Through the ToolTips With our All-Encompassing ToolTip Programmer's Guide).

Re claims 11, 12 and 17, Thames et al. substantially discloses the method and system as set forth in the above claims 8 and 13 respectively. Thames et al. does not explicitly disclose that the first sub-item window and the second sub-item window are transparent and using symbol to indicate that lower-tier sub items exist and can be selected. However, Microsoft Tiptoe Through teaches of sub-item windows that are transparent and using symbol to indicate that lower-tier sub items exist and can be selected (see child data page 2 and page 15 for example). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the transparent windows and symbols indicating lower-tier sub item of Microsoft Tiptoe through on the system/method of Thames et al. in order to provide a display that gives indication of all that is available on screen.

Claims 25-28, 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thames in view of Gomes et al. (US20050028107, hereinafter Gomes).

Thames shows a method substantially as claimed, as specified above.

Thames further shows: using links that parallel execution flow of computer program code source module, to enable a user to comprehend an application's operation (page 5, paragraph [0077]; page 19, paragraphs [0341] to [0343]), and a symbol "mac" comprising nested macro definitions which may be expanded (page 43, paragraphs [0669], [0670]).

Thames fails to specifically show: wherein the editable data value is a numeric value; wherein the editing operations comprise at least one of a) a copy operation, b) a paste operation, c) a "change to a binary display" operation, or d) a "change to a decimal display" operation; wherein the expression is displayed on the computer display as a result of execution of a breakpoint contained in the software program; wherein the first variable is incorporated into the expression prior to the expression being displayed on the computer as a result of execution of the breakpoint; wherein the expression is currently displayed on the computer screen as a result of execution of a breakpoint contained in the program code.

In the same field of invention, Gomes teaches: editable data tooltips. Gomes further teaches: wherein the editable data value is a numeric value (page 2, paragraph [0013]); wherein the editing operations comprise at least one of a) a copy operation, b) a paste operation, c) a "change to a binary display" operation, or d) a "change to a decimal display" operation (page 2, paragraph [0013]); wherein the expression is displayed on the computer display as a result of execution of a breakpoint contained in the software program (page 1, paragraph [0005]) (e.g., execution of the program has been halted, and an expression indicated) ; wherein the first variable is incorporated into the expression prior to the expression being displayed on the computer as a result of execution of the breakpoint (page 2, paragraph [0010]); wherein the expression is currently displayed on the computer screen as a result of execution of a breakpoint contained in the program code (page 2, paragraph [0010]; page 1, paragraph [0005]).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Thames and Gomes at the time that the invention was made, to have combined the teachings of Gomes with the method as taught by Thames.

One would have been motivated to make such combination because a way to improve debugging pograms would have been obtained and desired, as expressly taught by Gomes (page 1, paragraph [0007]).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims above have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Draine [US20040250175]

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jordany Núñez whose telephone number is (571)272-2753. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday Through Thursday 9am-7:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Bashore can be reached on (571)272-4088. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/J. N./
8/10/2009

/William L. Bashore/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2175